REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Nguyen for conducting the kind and courteous discussion with Applicants' representative, Daniel R. Evans, on September 21, 2005. The content of the discussion is reflected in the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

The rejection of Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over US 6,248,495 (US '495) in view of US 6,403,271 (US '271) is respectfully traversed.

US '495 is directed to an electrostatic image developer containing amorphous spherical silica microparticulates and toner particles (see Abstract). The amorphous spherical silica microparticulates have "a specific surface area of 5-50 m^2/g and a particle size distribution of 5–1,000 nm" (see Abstract). However, US '495 does not disclose or suggest an amorphous fine silica particle having a dispersion coefficient (z) that ranges from about 31% to 40% as presently claimed. It is also noted that US '271 fails to disclose this limitation. It may be true that US '271 discloses a "monodisperse spherical inorganic oxide" (see col. 7, lines 10-62), and that the term "monodisperse...is preferably a standard deviation of $0.22*D_{50}$ (see col. 7, lines 50-55). However, US '271 does not disclose or suggest an amorphous silica as presently claimed.

It is requested that the Examiner consider that the conventional amorphous fine silica particle made by flame hydrolysis of a silicon compound has a dispersion coefficient that is more than 43%. Inspection of the data in Table 3 shows that improvements in the "spiral flow" and the "burr length" are observed when comparing the silica of the present invention with conventional silica.

Since neither US '495 nor US '271 fail to disclose or suggest the claimed amorphous fine silica particle made by flame hydrolysis having the specified dispersion coefficient and

since these two references do not suggest the improvements observed in the resultant properties for silica particles that fall within the scope of that which is presently claimed, it is believed that the presently claimed invention is unobvious over the disclosures of US '495 and US '271. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge the same and withdraw this rejection.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application is now in a condition for allowance. Should the Examiner deem that a personal or telephonic interview would be helpful in advancing this application toward allowance, she is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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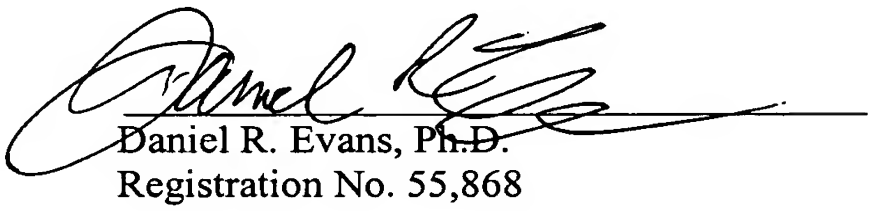

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